

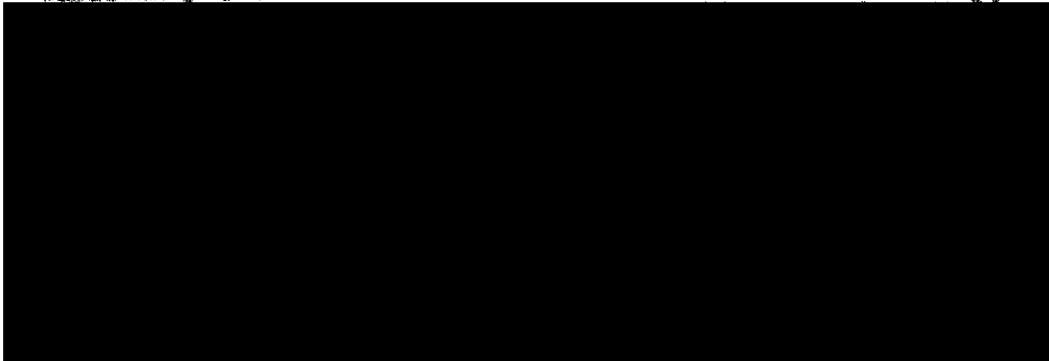
25 January 1968

The Honorable George H. Mahon  
Chairman, Defense Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Mahon:

When I appeared before your committee on 11 January, I stated that the intelligence community was still considering the question of the estimated accuracy of the Soviet Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (record, page 15). We have now concluded this review and I would like to suggest that the record be reopened and the following statement inserted:

We now believe that at the date of initial operational capability (which we estimate had occurred by 1 January 1968)



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At the same time, the intelligence community reviewed the question of the reliability of the Soviet ICBM. The revised conclusions vary somewhat from the testimony I gave (record, page 15) and I would like to suggest the insertion in the record at that point of the following:

We have concluded that the reliability from the time when a Soviet ICBM is placed on launcher to its detonation

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In the target area falls in the range of 45% to 60% when first operational. We believe that three years later it would be on the order of 65% to 75%. Within these ranges there are some differences of opinion within the intelligence community, the Army and Navy favoring the low side and the Air Force favoring the high side in each instance.

Our estimates in this highly important field of Soviet strategic attack capabilities are kept constantly under review as new evidence, such as that received from the current Soviet test flights into the central Pacific, and other relevant data are received and analysed.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

Draft agreed at Deputies' Meeting by Cabell, Amory, Kent  
22 January 1960  
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25 January 1960

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